

**COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS RE: GOAL 1**  
**Submitted by Annabelle Fisher, Resident**

- 1. Important that outreach by city government and businesses to all Alexandria residents be done in a positive manner in order for all to understand that there is a need for future development and that this is not just another city process wherein citizens are not heard.**
- 2. Alexandria is not only an historic district it is also a “bedroom community” that is now an urban area and no longer a suburban area. As such, it will be difficult for many residents who have lived here a long time to change their attitude about Alexandria as an urban area. Positive outreach with answers to all questions and no surprises could promote a buy-in to a “new Alexandria” by a majority of residents.**
- 3. Transportation/Transit: This is a key element for quality development. We not only need bus rapid transit lanes, but also should revisit original transportation group’s recommendations. As federal/state local money is so tight, time to drop idea of metro stop at Potomac yards and move ahead with a transportation plan for BRAC site as well as other future developments. This must be a REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION EFFORT.**
- 4. What items in the 2010 budget will council consider deleting?**
- 5. What is Alexandria already spending too much money on?**
- 6. Increasing small businesses in Alexandria is important. However, alex. Taxpayers should not have to pay for their start up via AEPD/ACVA – that’s what the federal SBA does – help individuals/groups start a business.**
- 7. West End/Landmark Mall/Beauregard Plan: We need more retail and commercial development in the W. End. Currently, Landmark Mall is on hold. And although Cameron Station is an important part of the West End, they do not represent all the residents of the W. End. Cameron Station residents need to ask why the businesses in their development have been unable to succeed and what they can do to help those businesses to succeed.**
- 8. Is city ready to do good planning rather the current patchwork planning that is being done? Mayor/council need to stop pushing for so many projects and planning dept. director needs to be able to say, “no, we can’t handle that right now”. Prioritize!!**
- 9. How much money will be needed from Alexandria taxpayers for infrastructure and other projects? Will there be a need to raise taxes to pay for everything? If not, where will money come from?**
- 10. How much money should Alexandria taxpayers continue to give to various non-profits in Alexandria vis-a-vie votes by mayor/council as part of budget?**
- 11. Commercial real estate taxes: Apartment building property taxes paid by renters go into commercial tax base. This makes up about 17% of current base. Mayor/council need to use the “bully pulpit” to reinforce renters as part of the Alex. Community. With the future development of Beauregard small area plan as well as other developments in all of Alexandria, newer apartment buildings will be “upscale” and will increase property values for homeowners and condo owners. Renters shop, pay taxes, work and use**

**transit in Alexandria and many families live in apt. buildings so their children attend Alexandria schools.**

**12. Council needs to look at income differences in Alexandria. I believe we are now a community of high and low-income residents and no real middle.**

**13. Employees who work for city government should be able to have the choice of whether they want to live here or somewhere else!!**

**Thanks for reading and listening to my comments at October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting and hope you will incorporate some of my concerns, suggestions and questions.**

**Annabelle Fisher**